following: language documentation through video and audio recording of poems, songs, proverbs and rituals, production of a bilingual Bedik-French dictionary, preparation of material for formal and non-formal education, creation of literacy classes.

- **Safeguarding endangered languages in Burkina Faso**
  In his general presentation, Mr. Gérard Kedrebeogo of the Institut National de Recherches Scientifiques et Techniques (INRST), Burkina Faso, discussed the main challenges for safeguarding endangered languages on the example of Burkina Faso. The country counts 59 local languages with French as the only official language. The provisions for language policies do not give a particular status to the local languages but do not prevent measures in favour of safeguarding them. Several research institutions and governmental bodies are working on the promotion and safeguarding of the languages of Burkina Faso. The speaker highlighted that in order to determine relevant safeguarding measures, the socio-cultural, economic and political context in which the languages are situated has to be taken into account. Action is needed at three levels: (a) communities have to strongly support all safeguarding measure and get actively involved, (b) linguists need to provide their expertise to document the local languages, to develop language material and to prepare for literacy activities and the use of the languages in the education system as well as in all other public domains and (c) at the policy level, appropriate language policies supporting the wider use of African languages need to be established.

- **On the Preservation of an Endangered Language: The Case of Chingoni (Malawi)**
  On the example of the comprehensive safeguarding project developed for the Chingoni language, Mr. Alfred D. Mtenje from the Center for Language Studies at the University of Malawi provided information on the extensive engagement of the Center’s staff in various safeguarding activities. The Chingoni language is still spoken by about 200 people. The safeguarding project concentrates on research and documentation of linguistic and cultural aspects of the language. The department’s staff is also engaged in several awareness raising activities: sensitization meetings with speakers, chiefs and language associations are regularly organized and advocacy programmes giving information about language rights including those of minority groups presented on radio and TV. The staff gives furthermore technical and linguistic advice to local languages associations. The large network of language associations active in Malawi represents an important pressure group. Students at the department are encouraged to engage in research work on minority languages.

- **Community involvement in language documentation: the case of the Tima language in Sudan**
  The research project described by Mr. Mugaddam of the University of Khartoum, Sudan, resulted from a request brought forward to the Department of Linguistics at
this University by the Tima speaker community who needed assistance in safeguarding their endangered language. Concerned about the growing language shift from Tima to Arabic and English which is taking place in the community, a few committed community members established a language committee to monitor safeguarding activities. A project was developed (in collaboration with partners from the University of Cologne, Germany) and funding secured through the Volkswagen Foundation for the following activities: (a) a sociolinguistic survey among Tima communities in Khartoum and the Nuba Mountains to assess the current situation of the language and factors influencing language shift, (b) a description of the phonological and syntactic structure of the language, (c) preparing a trilingual Tima-Arabic-English dictionary, (d) preparing textbooks for teaching Tima and (e) developing a multimedia-documentation of non-verbal communication.

Theme 2: University curricula strengthening skills and methodologies for documenting and safeguarding endangered languages

- Developing a Master’s Programme on Language Documentation of Local Languages

Ms Eno URUA of the University of Uyo, Nigeria, presented the MA program for documenting local languages developed by the Department of Linguistics and Nigerian languages in support of the research policy of the department to document and describe step by step the languages in the area covered by the university.

The Master’s programme is part of a cooperation project involving also the University of Bielefeld (Germany) and the University of Cocody, Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire). The aim of the programme is to train students in language documentation techniques incorporating modern computational tools and using a comprehensive approach to language documentation including also cultural data important to the speaker community. The programme comprises the following components: teaching, seminar presentations, fieldwork, student’s final projects and evaluation. Each year, professors and students concentrate on one new language spoken in the area. Involving the community concerned takes a very important place in the organization of the field work and data collection. The communities are very interested in the project and supportive in providing necessary information but also accommodation. As a result of the project work on each language, a documentation of cultural and linguistic data, including an electronic dictionary, is made available online. The project results are also shared with the communities. Since its start in 2005, the MA programme has been very popular among students. The existing mainly theoretical curriculum was revised to become more relevant and applied according to the urgent need of qualified staff for safeguarding minority languages.

- A university department’s quest to safeguard indigenous languages (Kenya)

In her contribution, Ms Catherine Kitetu from the University of Egerton, shared the experience of the staff of the Department of Linguistics at the University of Egerton